

# Berkshire Education Committee.

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## REPORT OF THE SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER

FOR THE YEAR

1917.

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### AREA AND POPULATION.

The area of the Berkshire Education Authority for Elementary School purposes is 448,058 acres, *i.e.*, the whole Administrative County with the exception of the Boroughs of Windsor, Maidenhead and Newbury.

The total civil population of this area at the middle of the year 1916 is estimated to have been about 137,615 (the estimated population for 1917 is not yet available), and the number of children on the rolls of the Elementary Schools in June last was about 22,340. There are 203 Public Elementary Schools with 240 separate Departments in the area.

The district is almost entirely rural in character and contains no town with an estimated population over 7,000.

### CLOSURE OF SCHOOLS OWING TO INFECTIOUS SICKNESS.

During 1917, 72 schools and departments were closed ; 6 by the District Medical Officers of Health with the approval of the School Medical Officer, 65 by the Local Education Authority or the School Managers acting on the advice of the School Medical Officer, and one by order of the District Council.

Number of schools closed during 1917 :—

21	on account of	measles.
11	„ „ „	whooping cough.
4	„ „ „	scarlet fever.
5	„ „ „	mumps.
1	„ „ „	diphtheria.
4	„ „ „	chicken-pox.
17	„ „ „	German measles.
2	„ „ „	measles and whooping cough.
1	„ „ „	diphtheria and whooping cough.

*I	on	account	of	{	measles.
				{	mumps.
*I	„	„	„	{	measles.
				{	whooping cough.
*I	„	„	„	{	German measles.
				{	whooping cough.
*I	„	„	„	{	measles.
				{	measles and chicken-pox.
*I	„	„	„	{	German measles.
				{	measles and chicken-pox.
*I	„	„	„	{	chicken-pox.
				{	scarlet-fever and mumps.

### SANITARY CONDITION OF SCHOOL PREMISES.

Only minor alterations to the sanitation of school premises have been carried out during the year, and have mainly consisted in improvements to drainage and ventilation. The school premises are under the constant supervision of the School Buildings Inspector.

### MEDICAL INSPECTION OF SCHOOL CHILDREN.

#### STAFF.

There was only one change in the staff during the year: Dr. Gibbons, the whole-time Assistant School Medical Officer, left in October to take up another appointment; Dr. McDonald, who was appointed to the vacancy, commenced duty the same month. Fortunately, Dr. Lake was able to continue his part-time services (averaging about four sessions a week during term) and the services of the two School Nurses, Miss Nott and Miss Thomas, also were available throughout the year.

#### ARRANGEMENTS FOR MEDICAL INSPECTION.

Medical inspection was carried out during the year in all the elementary schools of the administrative county, with the exception of two small schools in which no special cases were noted and one small school which was closed for infectious disease at the time fixed for inspection, while to nearly half the schools a second visit of inspection was paid.

In every school visited all special cases and leavers were examined; in a few instances entrants also were dealt with.

As in the two preceding years, the selection of special cases for inspection was made by the Head Teachers and the School Nurses.

\* These schools were closed twice owing to different epidemics.

### FOLLOWING UP.

The important work of following up defective children, which comprises visits to their homes, enquiries into the home conditions and endeavours to secure suitable treatment, has been well maintained during the year. Valuable help has been rendered by the Care Committees, which have now been established in connection with rather more than one-third of the schools of the County.

The following is a summary of the work done by the School Nurses during the year :—

Number of visits to schools	...	...	...	...	...	569
„ „ „ „ homes	...	...	...	...	...	1,742
„ „ inspections	...	...	...	...	...	43,290
„ „ instances in which verminous conditions (lice and nits) were found in the children's heads	...	...	...	...	...	3,160
„ „ exclusions owing to verminous conditions	...	...	...	...	...	418

### EXISTING ARRANGEMENTS AS TO TREATMENT.

Up to the present the only treatment undertaken at the expense of the Education Committee has been X-ray treatment of ringworm. This disease was formerly treated at three centres—Reading, Newbury and Oxford ; but at present only the first is available. Twelve cases were treated during 1917 with satisfactory results.

In the Parish of Aldermaston gratuitous dental treatment is available through the generosity of a private individual. The dentist's report upon the year's work is as follows :—

	May.	July.	Sept.	Dec.
Inspections...	68	84	66	64
Extractions—temporary teeth	18	10	7	6
„ permanent „	0	1	3	3
Stoppings	8	5	6	9

In two other areas special terms for the dental treatment of elementary school children have been arranged by the local Care Committees.

### MENTALLY DEFECTIVE CHILDREN.

Eighty-five mentally defective children were examined during medical inspection ; while an additional 19 children, reported by teachers or attendance officers as mentally defective, were specially visited and examined.

W. SISAM,

*Acting School Medical Officer*

Shire Hall,

Reading,

*January, 1918.*

## NUMBER OF CHILDREN INSPECTED 1ST JANUARY, 1917, TO 31ST DECEMBER, 1917.

## A. "CODE" GROUPS.

Age.	Entrants.					
	3	4	5	6	Other Ages.	Total.
Boys .. ..	..	..	18	19	..	37
Girls .. ..	..	1	21	6	..	28
Totals .. ..	..	1	39	25	..	65

Age.	Inter- mediate Group.	Leavers.					
		8	12	13	14	Other Ages.	Total. Grand Total.
Boys .. ..	..	..	1243	267	18	..	1528 1565
Girls .. ..	..	..	1283	384	32	..	1699 1727
Totals .. ..	..	..	2526	651	50	..	3227 3292

	Intermediate Group (other than 8 years).	Special Cases.	Re-Examinations (i.e. Number of Children re-examined during the year).
Boys .. ..	..	801	39
Girls .. ..	..	734	38
Totals .. ..	..	1535	77

## INSPECTION, TREATMENT, &amp;C., OF CHILDREN DURING 1917.

(1) Total number of children medically inspected .. .. .	4810
(2) Number of children in (1) suffering from defects (other than uncleanliness or defective clothing or footgear) who require to be kept under observation (but not referred for treatment) .. ..	244
(3) Number of children in (1) who were referred for treatment (excluding uncleanliness, defective clothing, &c.) .. .. .	1825
(4) Number of children in (3) who received treatment for one or more defects (excluding uncleanliness, defective clothing, &c.).. ..	543



## RETURN OF DEFECTS FOUND IN THE COURSE OF MEDICAL INSPECTION IN 1917,

Defect or Disease.					Code Groups.		Specials.	
					Number referred for treatment.	Number requiring to be kept under observation, but not referred for treatment.	Number referred for treatment.	Number requiring to be kept under observation, but not referred for treatment.
Malnutrition	..	..	..	..	144	9	77	1
Uncleanliness	{ Head	..	..	..	147	..	178	..
	{ Body	..	..	..	33	..	82	..
Skin	{	Ringworm	{ Head	..	..	..	8	..
			{ Body	..	2	..	1	..
		Scabies	..	..	9	..	8	..
		Impetigo	..	..	9	..	9	..
		Other Disease	..	..	26	..	16	..
Eye	{	Defective Vision and Squint	..	..	162	38	101	18
		External Eye Disease	..	..	47	..	26	..
Ear	{	Defective Hearing	..	..	8	..	13	1
		Ear Disease	..	..	29	2	21	2
Dental Disease	..	..	..	..	242	3	38	..
Nose and Throat	{	Enlarged Tonsils	..	..	85	33	52	19
		Adenoids	..	..	9	1	21	3
		Enlarged Tonsils and Adenoids	..	..	20	..	37	3
		Defective Speech	..	..	4	1	6	2
Heart and Circulation	{	Heart Organic	..	..	2	1	4	..
		Disease Functional	..	..	4	17	2	8
		Anæmia	..	..	14	..	11	1
Lungs	{	Pulmonary	{ Definite	..	3	..	11	..
			{ Suspected	..	8	9	16	8
		Chronic Bronchitis	..	..	9	4	13	8
		Other Disease	..	..	3	..	3	2
Nervous System	{	Epilepsy	..	..	2	..	3	..
		Chorea	..	..	1	..	4	..
		Other Disease	..	..	1	..	2	1
Non-Pulmon. Tuberculosis	{	Glands	..	..	3	..	5	..
		Bones and Joints	..	..	3	..	1	..
		Other Forms	..	..	2	..	3	..
Rickets	..	..	..	..	3	..	8	..
Deformities	..	..	..	..	18	..	6	..
Other Defects and Diseases	..	..	..	..	325	10	249	14

## TREATMENT OF DEFECTS.

In the following table are set out particulars obtained as to the number of defects treated, and the results of such treatment.

Condition.	No. of defects found for which treatment was considered necessary.			No. of defects for which no report is available.	No. of defects treated.	Results of Treatment.			No. of defects not treated.	Percentage of defects treated.
	From pre-vious year.	New.	Total.			Remedied.	Improved.	Unchanged.		
Clothing .. ..	2	2	4	1	2	1	1	..	1	50
Footgear .. ..	4	..	4	..	..	..	..	..	4	..
Cleanliness of head ..	64	144	208	47	108	17	91	..	53	51·9
Cleanliness of body	23	17	40	7	21	..	21	..	12	52·5
Nutrition .. ..	208	278	486	111	282	14	262	6	93	58·0
Nose and throat ..	115	183	298	68	122	65	57	..	108	40·9
External eye disease	15	42	57	17	27	9	18	..	13	47·4
Ear disease .. ..	19	36	55	9	38	9	28	1	8	69·1
Teeth.. .. .	113	200	313	80	96	66	30	..	137	30·7
Heart and circulation	23	23	46	12	20	..	19	1	14	43·5
Lungs .. .. .	32	38	70	24	38	8	30	..	8	54·3
Nervous system ..	5	8	13	3	4	..	4	..	6	30·8
Skin .. .. .	26	60	86	15	61	49	12	..	10	70·9
Rickets .. .. .	2	..	2	..	2	..	2	..	..	100
Deformities .. ..	..	6	6	2	3	..	3	..	1	50
Non-pulmonary tuberculosis	..	4	4	3	1	..	1	..	..	25
Speech .. .. .	2	4	6	1	1	..	1	..	4	16·7
Mental condition ..	8	3	11	..	2	..	2	..	9	18·2
Vision and squint ..	91	185	276	59	107	75	31	1	110	38·8
Hearing .. .. .	12	8	20	2	12	3	8	1	6	60
Miscellaneous ..	85	120	205	52	112	37	75	..	41	54·6
Totals .. .. .	849	1361	2210	513	1059	353	696	10	638	47·9

## CHILDREN IN RESIDENTIAL SPECIAL SCHOOLS DURING 1917.

	Age in Years.	Condition.	Name of Institution.	Admitted.
BLIND.				
D.E.L.C., girl ..	14	Partially blind ..	Swiss Cottage Institution for the Blind	3/6/14
S.L.H.T., boy ..	10	Ditto .. ..	Edgbaston Royal Institu- tion for the Blind	14/10/14
B.S., girl ..	6	Ditto .. ..	Ditto .. ..	11/9/16
A.R.C., boy ..	12	Ditto .. ..	Brighton Asylum for the Blind (Eastern Road)	15/9/14
R.A.C., boy (bro- ther of A.R.C.)	13	Ditto .. ..	Ditto .. ..	4/6/13
A.S.H., girl ..	15	Ditto .. ..	Barclay Home for the Blind, Brighton	17/4/12
C.W.N., boy ..	13	Blind .. ..	School for the Blind, West- bury-on-Trym, Bristol	5/9/16
E.E.A., girl ..	8	Ditto .. ..	Ditto .. ..	16/1/17
D.A.A., girl (sis- ter of E.E.A.)	6	Ditto .. ..	Ditto .. ..	28/8/17
DEAF AND DUMB.				
P.H.F., boy ..	12	Deaf and dumb	Edgbaston Royal Institu- tion for the Deaf and Dumb, Birmingham	25/9/16
A.E.M., boy ..	11	Ditto .. ..	Ditto .. ..	3/9/13
A.J.P., boy ..	10	Ditto .. ..	Ditto .. ..	8/3/15
G.A.S., boy ..	12	Ditto .. ..	Ditto .. ..	3/9/13
A.C., boy ..	15	Ditto .. ..	Ditto .. ..	Liability for main- tenance taken over from Oxford 1/1/16
G.W.J.M., boy	8	Ditto .. ..	Ditto .. ..	18/1/17
L.H., boy ..	9	Ditto .. ..	Royal Institution for the Deaf and Dumb, Derby	Left 3/5/17) 20/8/15
L.M.H., girl ..	14	Ditto .. ..	Ditto .. ..	24/1/11
S.J.N., boy ..	12	Ditto .. ..	Ditto .. ..	16/1/14
G.H.P., boy ..	10	Ditto .. ..	Ditto .. ..	29/8/13
B.N.P., girl ..	14	Ditto .. ..	Ditto .. ..	21/8/12
B.A.T., girl ..	12	Ditto .. ..	Ditto .. ..	23/8/11
L.P., boy (bro- ther of G.H.P.)	8	Ditto .. ..	Ditto .. ..	26/8/16
E.E.P., boy (bro- ther of B.N.P.)	7	Ditto .. ..	Ditto .. ..	10/8/17
L.J.C., boy ..	10	Ditto .. ..	Royal School for Deaf Children, Margate	1/1/15
L.F., boy ..	13	Ditto .. ..	Ditto .. ..	31/12/14
G.R.T., boy ..	15	Ditto .. ..	Ditto .. ..	16/5/11
M.A.F., girl (sis- ter of L.F.)	8	Ditto .. ..	Ditto .. ..	4/9/17
EPILEPTIC.				
H.R., girl ..	16	Epileptic .. ..	Home for Epileptics, Maghull	21/4/14
E.W., boy ..	14	Ditto .. ..	Ditto .. ..	At age 16 liability was taken over by Poor Law Guardians 17/2/15
MENTALLY DEFECTIVE.				
G.W.G.B., boy	12	Feeble-minded ..	Littleton House, Cam- bridge	27/4/14

